

Copy

With the Author's Compliments

SEFTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Trans

Annual Report

— OF —

Medical Officer of Health for 1920.

J. C. BRADSHAW, L.R.C.P., D.P.H., &c.

SULGRAVE,
WALTON PARK,
LIVERPOOL,
April 25th, 1921.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sefton Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for 1920.

Taking Statistics first,

Population. The Estimated Population of the District is 4,890.

Births. The total number of Births for the past year is 113; of these 57 are males, and 56 females, inclusive of 4 illegitimates, 2 male and 2 female.

Birth Rate. The Birth Rate is therefore 23.1 per 1,000, as against 14.9 last year; 18.2 for 1918, and 12.9 in 1917. This is a considerable increase.

Deaths. 71 Deaths were registered in the District, 12 were transferred in and 2 were transferred out, making a total of 81, 30 male and 51 female.

	Males	Females	Total
Registered in District	21	50	71
Transferred to District	9	3	12
Transferred out of District	0	2	2
	30	51	81

Death Rate. This makes a Death Rate of 16.5 per 1,000, as against 12.3 in 1919, and 14.8 in 1918.

Infant Death Rate. The Infant Death Rate per 1,000 born is 44. This is very low, and a sure indication that the public are now better informed and assisted in the bringing up of young children.

It compares as follows :—

1915	...	...	...	...	...	...	137 per 1,000 born.
1916	...	...	...	...	...	...	88 " " "
1917	...	...	...	...	...	...	82 " " "
1918	...	...	...	...	...	...	65 " " "
1919	...	...	...	...	...	...	68 " " "
1920	...	...	...	...	...	...	44 " " "

Deaths from
Epidemic Diseases.

The principal Zymotic diseases have caused :—

Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Epidemic Death
Rate.

The Epidemic Death Rate is 0.61.

Tuberculosis
Death Rate.

The Tuberculosis Death Rate is 1.02.

	1919.		1920.
Infectious Diseases Notified.	4	Diphtheria	11
	3	Erysipelas	—
	5	Scarlet Fever	9
	—	Enteric or Typhoid	—
	—	Puerperal Fever	—
	9	Measles	3
	—		—
	21		23
	—		—

Infectious Diseases.

The distribution was as follows :—

TOWNSHIP							Diph- theria	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Totals
Ford	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	1
West Derby Rural	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	6
Sefton	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	1
Kirkby	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	1
Thornton	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	—	5
Netherton	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	—	5
Lunt	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Aintree	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	—	3
Croxteth	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Ince Blundell	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	1
Totals							9	11	3	23

Tuberculosis
Reports and
Deaths.

Six cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and two of other forms have been reported to me. There were five deaths from Pulmonary, one male and four females, and two from other forms of the disease, both of which were females.

Treatment
Hospitals.

Of the Infectious cases, 7 Diphtheria and 3 Scarlet Fever were removed to Hospital. The other cases were isolated and attended to at home.

Accommodation. As we have no Hospital for Infectious cases, the Liverpool Health Committee oblige us by taking them, according to arrangement made.

Disinfection of Bedding, &c. Also carried out by Liverpool Health Committee as for many years past, and I wish to emphasise how prompt and courteous they have been on all occasions.

Report of Sanitary Inspector.	Notices to strip and cleanse premises after infection	...	...	...	28
	Notices of Nuisances—Statutory	...	...	...	40
	Do. Informal	...	...	...	65
	Repairs to blocked and defective drains	...	...	...	46
	Offensive ditches and watercourses cleansed	...	...	...	6
	Accumulation of offensive filth and water removed	...	...	...	45
	Roofs, ashpits and closets repaired	...	...	...	53
	Inspections relating to nuisances, etc.	...	...	...	1,200
	Complaints received from public	...	...	...	35
	Visits to infected houses and premises	...	...	...	98
					<hr/> 1,616 <hr/>

Military Depots, &c. The Ordnance Department at Netherton and the Aeroplane Factory at Aintree are still staffed, and have again caused no anxiety.

TOWNSHIPS. Any remarks on the housing question in the townships will be dealt with in that portion of my report.

Aintree. Two cases of Diphtheria and one of Scarlet Fever occurred. All were removed to Hospital, and recovered.

Ford. One case of Measles was reported. A serious outbreak of Influenza occurred at the Convent here in April and May, with seventeen deaths. Assisted by your Sanitary Inspector I investigated most carefully, and could not account for it in any way, as no other cases were reported in the Township or in the neighbouring ones at the time. I may say, however, that many of the deceased persons were suffering from other diseases at the time they contracted it.

Netherton. The infectious diseases here were two cases of Diphtheria and three of Scarlet Fever. Four cases were sent to Hospital and one treated at home, all ending in recovery.

Sefton. Only one case of Diphtheria was reported here ; it was treated at home, isolated, and recovered.

River Alt Pollution. The River Alt is still in its old disgusting condition, and creates a standing nuisance. The people in the neighbourhood seem to think I am responsible for this. Year after year I keep referring to it, but I cannot get anyone to move in the matter. Your Council seem powerless. The promise of the chief polluter still remains unfulfilled.

Kirkby.

Once again this large Township has been very free from infection, only one case of Scarlet Fever having been reported, which was isolated and attended to at home, and recovered. As a matter of fact, all the cases of Scarlet Fever in this and other Townships were of a mild variety, and no fatal case happened during the year.

The Septic Tank which receives the sewage from Kirkby Park and Glovers Brow is still doing its work in a satisfactory manner.

Ince Blundell.

Only one case of notifiable infection here, Diphtheria, which was removed to Hospital, and recovered.

An epidemic of Mumps occurred, but it was not very serious. At one time it was debated whether we should close the School, but it was not found necessary.

A number of cottages here are still in bad repair, but will be referred to in the portion of this report relating to Housing generally.

Thornton.

Two cases of Diphtheria were reported here, both of which were removed to Hospital, and one died—the only death from this disease in the whole district. Also three cases of Scarlet Fever, which were of a mild form, were treated at home and recovered.

The only Slaughter House in the District is situated in Water Street here, and is well conducted, and I have no cause of complaint.

Lunt.

Once again this Parish has been free from infection, and, except from a Housing point of view, no further remarks are required.

West Derby,
Rural.

Six cases of infectious disease have been notified—one of Diphtheria, three of Scarlet Fever, and two of Measles. All were attended to at home.

Piggeries.

This Township contains many large piggeries. I have had no complaints, and find them, as also those in any other part of the District, kept in a fairly sanitary condition.

Common Lodging
Houses.

This Township is the only one where these exist, and, taking into consideration the difficulty of repairs at present, are in a fair condition, and also fairly kept.

Emptying of
Middens and
Cottages.

Carried out by your Council through your own staff, and are well attended to.

Kenyon's Cottages have now been put in fair habitable condition.

Cowsheds and
Dairies.

These have been duly inspected, and found fairly satisfactory.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30076961>

The old cowshed at Thornton, which was condemned, has been replaced by a new one. You will remember I stated that I was satisfied with 600 cubic feet per cow instead of 800 required in all new ones, on condition that more light and ventilation was supplied. This has been done, and I have no doubt that it will prove quite satisfactory.

Bakehouses. None exist in the District.

Factories and No Factories and only two Workshops exist in the District. These are kept
Workshops. in good condition.

Nature of District. May be said to be practically all Agricultural, and principal needs are good cottages and sanitary arrangements for labourers.

Water Supply. Nearly all supplied from Liverpool and St. Helens mains. A few outlying cottages still have to depend on wells, but they are very few.

Housing. Another year has passed, and, although we are somewhat progressing, I am sorry to say that we are a long way behind what I had hoped would have been accomplished. In my last annual report I stated sites for 36 houses had been purchased and staked out; it is therefore a matter of regret that none of these have yet been completed; some are in a very early stage, while others are not yet even commenced. I am disappointed, but can only hope that a speeding up will take place. Briefly the position is this: 32 houses are condemned or unfit for habitation, and many others require condemnation through the neglect of the owners in putting them in a wholesome sanitary condition. The applications received for new cottages are 62 in number to December 31st last, so that practically all or nearly all of these are yet unprovided for. I must repeat what I said last year, that although so many cottages are really unfit for habitation, I cannot recommend that any should be closed until such time as we can re-house the tenants. For instance, Charnocks Cottages, West Derby; The Barracks, Sefton; and two cottages, Victoria Road, Ince Blundell, whose owners prefer that these should be closed rather than do the necessary repairs, all these practically mean rebuilding to make them habitable—are only instances which could be repeated over again.

The situations of the new cottages in course of erection or contracted for are as follows:—

Ince Blundell	...	...	...	...	...	6
Thornton	...	...	...	...	...	10
Lunt	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sefton	...	...	...	...	...	10
West Derby	...	...	...	...	...	6
						—
						36
						==

The estimate originally made was for 100 new cottages, and at the present rate of progression I am afraid that it will be impossible to comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, which will expire in July, 1922.

West Derby.

There are three bungalows in course of erection in this Township under the Ministry of Health Grant of a subsidy of £240 and £260 each, but these do not help in the need, for cottages as they are built for sale by private builders.

Kenyons Cottages.

A marked improvement in the conversion of ashpits and privies to W.C.'s at this group of seven cottages since my report of last year; there are still others in Carr Lane and Deysbrook Lane which really need the same consideration, as a sewer is available.

Overcrowding, on the basis of having more than two persons per room.

Aintree	...	...	...	...	...	2 cottages
Ford	...	...	...	...	...	4 „
Kirkby	...	...	...	...	...	2 „
Netherton	...	...	...	...	...	2 „
Sefton	...	...	...	...	...	3 „
Thornton	...	...	...	...	...	1 „
West Derby	...	...	...	...	...	5 „
						—
						19
						==

Back-to-back Cottages.

Aintree	...	...	...	...	...	2 „
Ince Blundell	...	...	...	...	...	2 „
Sefton	...	...	...	...	...	3 „
West Derby	...	...	...	...	...	13 „
						—
						20
						==

Cottages condemned as unfit for habitation.

Aintree	...	...	...	...	...	1 „
Ince Blundell	...	...	...	...	...	4 „
Kirkby	...	...	...	...	...	3 „
Lunt	...	...	...	...	...	2 „
Sefton	...	...	...	...	...	7 „
Thornton	...	...	...	...	...	2 „
West Derby	...	...	...	...	...	2 „
						—
						21
						==

Cottages in a ruinous or insanitary state, owners cannot afford to repair.

Aintree	...	...	...	...	1	„
Ince Blundell	...	...	...	...	6	„
Kirkby	...	...	...	...	3	„
Lunt	...	...	...	...	1	„
Sefton	...	...	...	...	7	„
West Derby	...	...	...	...	8	„
					<hr/>	
					26	
					<hr/>	

Cottages containing two families or more.

Ince Blundell	...	...	...	...	2	„
Kirkby	...	...	...	...	3	„
Lunt	...	...	...	...	1	„
Netherton	...	...	...	...	1	„
Sefton	...	...	...	...	1	„
Thornton	...	...	...	...	1	„
West Derby	...	...	...	...	3	„
					<hr/>	
					12	
					<hr/>	

Report of Child's Welfare Visitor.

Local Authorities, Milk (Mothers and Children) Order. Record of Visitors' Work from April 1st, 1920, to March 31st, 1921.

West Derby Rural	...	...	64 cases	370 visits
Kirkby	...	...	21 „	146 „
Ince Blundell	...	...	14 „	71 „
Aintree and Netherton	...	...	9 „	44 „
Sefton	...	...	4 „	28 „
Ford	...	...	4 „	27 „
Thornton	...	...	2 „	18 „
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			118	704
			<hr/>	<hr/>

Visits are made periodically to West Derby Clinic, where Ante and Post Natal cases receive attention. Glaxo, Cow and Gate Dried Milk, Virol, and medicines are supplied at a reduced rate. Dr. Mary Price is the Medical Officer.

Milk has been supplied free by the Council to necessitous cases.

Summary.

For another year I can say that, considering the difficult times in which we live at present, the infection has been small ; also the amount of sickness generally. The increased Birth Rate and the very low Infant Death Rate are most satisfactory.

The only matter causing anxiety is already referred to—the Housing Question. I suppose all Districts have the same trouble as you do in regard to the slow progression.

Closing.

At the time of closing this report, with the exception of a few cases of mild Scarlet Fever, we are practically free from infection.

Copies.

As usual I am sending six copies of this Report to the Ministry of Health, one to the County Council, the Home Office, and three to the Principal Medical Officer, also one to each Member of your Council.

I have the honour to be, GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

J. C. BRADSHAW, L.R.C.P., D.P.H., &c.,

Medical Officer of Health.

